

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A data processing system comprising:
- a) a bootstrap server having an extended set of communication functions stored thereon;
- b) a personal digital assistant having a core set of communication functions stored in non-volatile memory thereon, said core set of communication
- 10 functions operable to allow said personal digital assistant to communicate with said bootstrap server;
- c) wherein said bootstrap server is for transferring said extended set of communication functions to said personal digital assistant; and
- d) an enterprise server operable to connect to said personal digital
- 15 assistant, wherein said personal digital assistant and said enterprise server communicate and transfer information, with said personal digital assistant using said extended set of communication functions.
2. The data processing system of Claim 1 wherein said bootstrap server
- 20 and said personal digital assistant are operable to communicate via a telephone line.
3. The data processing system of Claim 1 wherein said personal digital assistant communicates with said enterprise server over the Internet.

4. The data processing system of Claim 1 wherein said core set of communication functions is synchronization logic.

5 5. A method of restoring basic functionality to a device comprising the steps of:

a) making a connection between a bootstrap server and a portable computer system;

b) synchronizing said bootstrap server with said portable computer system, wherein said server uses synchronization software which is compatible with a core set of communication functions stored in said portable computer system's non-volatile memory;

c) transferring first software from said bootstrap server to a volatile memory unit of said portable computer system, wherein said portable computer system regains basic functionality for connecting to an enterprise server; and

d) said portable computer system connecting to and transferring information with said enterprise server using said first software.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein step c) comprises the step of:

c1) transferring an extended set of communication functions from said bootstrap server to said portable computer system.

7. The method of Claim 5 wherein step a) comprises the step of:

a1) making said connection between said bootstrap server and said portable computer system using a telephone line.

8. The method of Claim 5 wherein step d) comprises the step of:

d1) said enterprise server transferring data to said portable computer system, wherein said data was backed up on said enterprise server from a previous synchronization between said enterprise server and said portable computer system.

9. The method of Claim 5 wherein said portable computer system is a personal digital assistant.

10. The method of Claim 5 wherein step d) comprises the step of:

d1) said portable computer system connecting to and transferring information with said enterprise server via the Internet, said portable computer system using said first software.

11. A server for restoring basic functionality to a portable computer system comprising:

a bootstrap server having bootstrap synchronization software stored thereon, said bootstrap synchronization software operable to allow a portable computer system to synchronize with said bootstrap server by using non-volatile memory based synchronization software stored in non-volatile memory on said portable computer system, wherein said bootstrap server appears to said portable computer system as a desktop computer system; and

a modem coupled to said bootstrap server, said modem for allowing said portable computer system to communicate with said bootstrap server.

12. The server of Claim 11 further comprising:

enterprise synchronization software stored thereon, said enterprise synchronization software for allowing said portable computer system to
5 synchronize to an enterprise server when said enterprise synchronization software is used by said portable computer system.

13. The server of Claim 11 further comprising:

application software stored on said bootstrap server, wherein said
10 bootstrap server is for transferring said application software to said portable computer system.

14. The server of Claim 11 further comprising:

a software tool stored on said bootstrap server, wherein said bootstrap
15 server is for transferring said software tool to said portable computer system.

15. The server of Claim 11 further comprising:

data from a previous synchronization with said portable computer system
stored on said bootstrap server, wherein said bootstrap server is for transferring
20 said data to said portable computer system.

16. The server of Claim 11 wherein said portable computer system is a personal digital assistant.